

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 HEW-08 AGR-20 AID-20 DODE-00 DRC-01

/134 W

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R 152241Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2151

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 5413

REF: A) QUITO 3908

B) STATE 134636

C) STATE 140907

D) QUITO 4723

SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 15 CONVERSATION MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT POVEDA ASSURED ME OF INCREASING GOE EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. HE SAID THAT ENFORCEMENT RESULTS FOR FIRST SEVEN MONTHS THIS YEAR HAD SHOWN RELATIVE IMPROVEMENT OF PREVIOUS TWO YEARS BUT THAT HE WAS FAR FROM SATISFIED WITH RESULTS. POVEDA STATED THAT FORTHCOMING REORGANIZATION OF POLICE WOULD INSURE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING MATERIAL PROVIDED BY U.S. WE AGREED TO MEET FROM TIME TO TIME TO REVIEW NARCOTICS MATTERS AND THAT EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WOULD MEET REGULARLY WITH MINISTER'S DESIGNEE TO MONITOR THE PROGRAM. END OF SUMMARY.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY CONSELOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (AND NARCOTICS COORDINATOR) I MET WITH GOE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT, ADMIRAL POVEDA, FOR ALMOST ONE HOUR AUGUST 15 TO REVIEW NARCOTICS MATTERS. THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND POVEDA SEEMED WELL PREPARED TO
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DISCUSS THE SUBJECT MATTER. IN FACT PRIOR TO SEEING

HIM, I HAD LEARNED THAT POVEDA HAD CONDUCTED A RATHER THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT SITUATION WITHIN HIS OWN MINISTRY, EVEN TO THE POINT OF CALLING A MEETING IN QUITO OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

3. I OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING MY GRATITUDE TO THE MINISTER FOR MEETING WITH ME AND SAYING THAT I HOPED THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MEETINGS TO REVIEW OUR MUTUAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST NARCOTICS. AFTER REFERRING TO THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES NOVEMBER 1971 WHICH ESTABLISHED OUR MUTUAL COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD AND TO THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRESIDENT RODRIQUEZ LARA IN AUGUST, 1972, I TURNED FIRST TO THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ECUADOR. I GAVE POVEDA A DOCUMENT PREPARED IN THE EMBASSY, "INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN ECUADOR" (COPY BEING POUCHED). THE DOCUMENT REVIEWS TRAFFIC STATISTICS AS WELL AS LISTING WHOM WE CONSIDER THE FOURTEEN MOST IMPORTANT TRAFFICKERS KNOWN TO OPERATE OR TO HAVE OPERATED OUT OF ECUADOR. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DOCUMENT, I OBSERVED THAT THE ESTIMATED QUANTITY OF DRUGS WHICH WERE EXPORTED FROM ECUADOR WERE SUBSTANTIAL IN COMPARISON WITH SEIZURE STATISTICS. I SUGGESTED TO THE MINISTER THAT WE MIGHT JOINTLY REVIEW AT A LATER DATE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT OR THAT OUR DESIGNEES MIGHT DO SO.

4. I NEXT INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE NARCOTICS LAW. POVEDA REPLIED THAT THE LAW WAS PRACTICALLY COMPLETED AND THAT ALL WHICH REMAINED WERE A FEW FINISHING TOUCHES IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THEN THE PROCESS OF CODIFICATION.

5. TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF ECUADOREAN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, I MADE THE POINT THAT IT WAS OUR BELIEF THAT NOT ENOUGH THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ASSIGNING POLICE OFFICIALS FULL TIME AND FOR PROLONGED TOURS TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT WORK. WE HAD NOTED THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE FREQUENT TRANSFERS. POVEDA REPLIED THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND THAT ITS

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ROOT LAY IN THE FACT THAT UNTIL NOW THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT PLANNING AND SPECIALIZATION WITHIN THE POLICE FORCE. THIS WAS A PROBLEM WHICH CUT ACROSS ALL AREAS OF POLICE ACTIVITY, NOT ONLY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. POVEDA SAID THAT HE WAS PLANNING A COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE FORCE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLANNING STAFF AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED SPECIALIZATION. ONCE THE REORGANIZATION

TAKES PLACE, SOME TIME LATER THIS YEAR, POVEDA FORESAW THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS TO VARIOUS SPECIALIZATIONS WITH MINIMUM TOURS OF TWO YEARS. POVEDA SAID THAT THE REFORM WAS INTENDED TO "REVOLUTIONIZE" THE POLICE FORCE AND THAT ITS STRUCTURE TWO YEARS HENCE WOULD BE "UNRECOGNIZABLE" FROM WHAT IT IS AT PRESENT.

6. I THEN ALLUDED TO THE PROBLEM WE HAVE HAD WITH RESPECT TO TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE ECUADOREAN POLICE, NOTING THAT MOST OF THE FORMER TRAINEES WERE NOT NOW ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS WORK AND THAT MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY VEHICLES, HAD BEEN DIVERTED TO OTHER PURPOSES. I GAVE POVEDA A SECOND DOCUMENT ("TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROVIDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA") WHICH REVIEWS THIS ISSUE CHAPTER AND VERSE LISTING THE NAMES OF ALL THE OFFICERS AND ALL THE EQUIPMENT WHICH WE FELT WERE NOT BEING PUT TO BEST USE. (COPY BEING POUCHED).

7. POVEDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A PROBLEM AND SAID THAT IT DERIVED FROM THE FAULTY ORGANIZATION OF THE POLICE FORCE TO WHICH HE HAD ALREADY ALLUDED. WITHOUT PLANNING OR SPECIALIZATION, SITUATIONS INEVITABLY AROSE WHEREIN EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL WERE USED INTER-CHANGEABLY OR FOR MORE THAN ONE PURPOSE AT A TIME. WITH REGARD TO U.S. PROVIDED EQUIPMENT, HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO RECTIFY IT AND ASSURED ME THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN WITH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY US IN THE FUTURE. POVEDA SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THAT MONEY HAD ALREADY BEEN ASSIGNED FOR MAJOR NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, INCLUDING HELICOPTERS, BUT THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PROCEEDING CAREFULLY SO AS TO INSURE THAT IT WOULD GET THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 5413

8. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF THE NARCOTICS ISSUE, I NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN LOCAL MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF LOCAL DRUG ABUSE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. I ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A GOE DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN (QUITO 5400), AND OFFERED THE FACILITIES OF MY MISSION TO SUPPORT IT.

9. I THEN ASKED POVEDA WHETHER HE OR THE PRESIDENT HAD CONSIDERED PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THEIR OWN IN THIS CONNECTION. POVEDA REPLIED THAT THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY HIMSELF OR OTHER MINISTERS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BE DECIDED WHEN THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN PLAN WAS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED BY THE "INTERNAL FRONT" WHICH HE HEADS. (THE "INTERNAL FRONT" CONSISTS OF THE MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE. IT COORDINATES MATTERS OF SOCIAL POLICY WHICH CUT ACROSS MINISTERIAL LINES.) IN ADDITION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON HAVE AVAILABLE AN EXTENSIVE RADIO AND TV NETWORK WHEREBY A DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM COULD REACH VIRTUALLY EVERY VILLAGE IN THE COUNTRY. HIS MINISTRY WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO TWO NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TWO COLOR-TV NETWORKS
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WHICH WOULD BE USED FOR SOCIAL EDUCATION PURPOSES. IN ADDITION HIS MINISTRY WOULD HAVE AVAILABLE A SECTION WHICH COULD PRODUCE VISUAL AIDS, MOVIES, AND SO FORTH. POVEDA WELCOMED MY OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION MATERIALS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT OF REHABILITATION CENTERS FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

10. AS A FINAL ITEM ON MY LIST, I RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE ADUM CASE POINTING OUT THAT IT HAD RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND WE WERE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE VERY CLOSELY. POVEDA SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS BUT PROMISED HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

11. POVEDA THEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT SITUATION FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE. HE COMMENTED THAT EVEN THOUGH HE WAS FAR FROM SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS THUS FAR, THE DATA FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS THIS YEAR WERE RELATIVELY ENCOURAGING AS COMPARED TO CALENDAR YEARS 1972 AND 1973. HE SAID THAT THE NARCOTICS SERVICE HAD DOUBLED ITS PERSONNEL THIS YEAR AND A FURTHER INCREASE OF 30 PERCENT IS PLANNED. HE REVIEWED THE SEIZURES AND DETENTION STATISTICS INCLUDING MENTION THAT 1,500 OPIUM PLANTS HAD BEEN DESTROYED THUS FAR THIS YEAR. ASKED IF ALL OF THESE PLANTS HAD BEEN LOCALLY GROWN, POVEDA SAID THAT SOME HAD BUT OTHERS HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY.

12. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, POVEDA SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED A SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED NARCOTICS EFFORT. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSIT LOUNGES AT THE QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL AIRPORTS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS TO MOVE DRUGS IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY WITH IMPUNITY. HE ALSO FORESAW IMPROVED CONTROLS AT BORDER POINTS WITH BOTH PERU AND COLOMBIA. AT THE MOMENT HE SAID ECUADOR HAS PRACTICALLY AN OPEN BORDER, "JUST LIKE EUROPE."

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13. THE MEETING ENDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT POVEDA AND I WOULD MEET AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME TO REVIEW PROGRESS IN NARCOTICS MATTERS. IN THE MEANWHILE, POVEDA AGREED TO MY SUGGESTION THAT THE COORDINATOR OF HIS MINISTRY SHOULD MEET WITH OUR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO FOLLOW UP THE SPECIFIC ITEMS RAISED AT OUR MEETING AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUING LIAISON.

14. COMMENT: POVEDA'S TONE THROUGHOUT STRUCK ME AS POSITIVE AND RESPONSIVE. FOR A MAN WHOSE PREOCCUPATIONS RANGE FROM INTERNAL SECURITY TO PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS WELL AND THOROUGHLY BRIEFED. I SENSE, IN FACT, THAT POVEDA

MAY BE GIVING THE NARCOTICS ISSUE GREATER PERSONAL ATTENTION THAN HERETOFORE AND HOPEFULLY THIS WILL GIVE THE PROGRAM THE IMPETUS THAT IT SO CLEARLY NEEDS.

15. IT SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT FROM POVEDA'S PERSPECTIVE, PROGRESS ON THE NARCOTICS FRONT IS CLOSELY TIED IN TO HIS PLANS FOR REVAMPING THE POLICE FORCE AS A WHOLE. SO WHILE I THINK IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT SOME IMMEDIATE ACTIONS ON HIS PART IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD, SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WE ARE ADVOCATING (I.E. ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICERS TO THE NARCOTICS SERVICE FOR LONGER TOURS) MAY HAVE TO AWAIT THE OVERALL POLICE REORGANIZATION SLATED FOR LATER THIS FALL.

16. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WE INTEND TO PRESS THE POINTS WE HAVE MADE IN FOLLOW-UP SESSIONS WITH COORDINATOR OF GOE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT.
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TAGS: SNAR, EC, US, (POVEDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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